

mainstays of a proud and historic community. However, the Chamber's extensive catalog of events engages with all sorts of communities. Its organization and sponsorship of events like the annual Halloween parade, a weekly Foodie Friday that promotes local restaurants, and the SantaCaliGon Days Festival bring joy and warm memories to those fortunate enough to call Independence home. And as the current public health crisis continues to pose unprecedented challenges and difficult decisions to small businesses, the Independence Chamber of Commerce has risen to meet the moment. It has reimagined how to help local businesses and continues to serve as a vital resource for those navigating the narrow waters between a struggling economy and a lethal virus. Additionally, the Chamber's concerted effort to spread awareness about various COVID-19 relief funds has been the difference, for many family-owned businesses, between surviving a difficult year and being forced to close. In short, the Chamber's work has ensured that President Truman's hometown continues to grow and prosper.

However, the Chamber's work extends far beyond Independence city limits. Its annual lobbying day in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. helps promote the policies necessary for robust business growth and economic development not only in the great state of Missouri, but across the entire country. And as this year has placed a renewed and long-overdue emphasis on community-owned broadband service, affordable quality housing, and neighborhood inclusivity, the Chamber has been an effective advocate for many of the issues that inspired me to run for City Council, for Mayor, and then for Congress. Through their advocacy, the Chamber has initiated and supported several infrastructure development and neighborhood revitalization projects that have benefitted a broad coalition of communities. It recognizes that policies that are good for hardworking individuals in all kinds of communities are also good for businesses, and I look forward to our continued partnership as we support Missouri families. But as I mentioned, it is not just the Chamber's policies, but also its presence, that have tangible positive effects on the district I represent.

With every educational seminar, a small business owner gains an opportunity to innovate and incorporate new ways to grow their business. With every networking event, the Chamber connects leaders who can collaborate and form symbiotic partnerships that benefit all of us. With every ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony, the Chamber offers a business the vital publicity and web of support needed to grow and succeed. Running a business is hard. But for one hundred years, the Independence Chamber has made it easier for the aspirational among us to capitalize on the same entrepreneurial spirit that made the American economy the envy of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the current and former staff members who have organized the daily activities of the Independence Chamber of Commerce, as well as all the past and present members of the Chamber's Board of Directors, who have served as dutiful stewards of this thriving organization. The Independence Chamber of Commerce has brought together entrepreneurs and served as a stalwart of growth and resiliency for the past one hundred

years. I have no doubt that they will continue this important work over the next century and beyond.

IN RECOGNITION OF KAREN  
MC CARTHY'S 37 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. PETER MEIJER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and service of longtime Michigan resident, Mrs. Karen McCarthy.

After 37 years, Mrs. McCarthy begins a well-deserved retirement after decades of public service to our local communities, and she will certainly be missed by the countless West Michiganders that she has helped and worked alongside over these many years. Mrs. McCarthy worked in community affairs for Consumers Energy and she most recently served as Community Affairs Manager in Kent County, based in Grand Rapids. In that role, she was responsible for local government and community relations, charitable giving, and economic development throughout Kent County.

It is difficult to overstate Mrs. McCarthy's connection to our community. Along with her work at Consumers Energy, she has served on numerous local committees and spent her personal time volunteering with organizations dedicated to combatting poverty and empowering women and girls. Her compassionate spirit, service to the public, and strong work ethic have made her an essential piece of West Michigan society.

Mrs. McCarthy's passion for serving others and dedication to her community have left a lasting impact, and we hope that her example will inspire younger generations to feel a similar call to public service. We wish her a joyful and peaceful retirement with her family and friends, and we remain grateful for her contributions that have improved the lives of so many of her fellow West Michiganders.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending Mrs. McCarthy for her service and her long career helping the people of the great state of Michigan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEXIS  
PAULSEN

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen, the daughter of Toby Hauck, President of the Air Traffic Controllers Local ZAU and an Illinois resident.

Alexis Grace (Hauck) Paulsen was born September 14, 1992, at Scott AFB, Illinois and died Monday, January 18, 2021, in Clare, Illinois, at the age of 28.

Alexis graduated from Hiawatha High School in 2011 in Kirkland, IL. Throughout high school Alexis participated in volleyball, basketball, softball and FFA. She was a member of the County Progressors 4-H Club and

showed livestock at the Boone County Fair. After graduation, she took classes at Kishwaukee College. Alexis was a member of Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb.

Alexis enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She loved meeting new people. She married Matthew on May 23, 2015. They spent their married life in Clare where she thrived in maintaining a loving home for her husband and sons. Her favorite thing in life was being a stay at home mom to her two boys.

Alexis is survived by her husband, Matthew; sons, Fredrick and Franklin; parents, Lori Jackson and Derrick Lander, Toby and Darla Hauck; parents-in-law, Jeff and Lauri Paulsen; brother, Dylan (Jasmine) Hauck; brothers-in-law, Tim (Cassie) Paulsen and Chris (Katie) Paulsen; nieces, Makayla Hauck, Olivia, Nola, and Brielle Paulsen; grandparents, Ann Carrel, Roger and Marilyn Jackson, Fred and Barb Hauck, Leanna Kacmarek, Betty Paulsen, Carol and Terry Dyer, and David and Eena Lundberg; and 16 aunts and uncles. Alexis is preceded in death by her grandfathers, Mort Carrel and Adolph Paulsen.

My deepest condolences to the Paulsen and Hauck families. This is indeed a tragic time, but also a time of reflection and hope. I am often reminded, "the pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered, there is opportunity for growth and healing." May the Lord give you that strength during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RONALD  
FRANCIS DWYER

**HON. DARIN LaHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 21, 2021*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor and remember the life of Ronald Francis Dwyer, who passed away on December 24, 2020, at the age of 77 after an eight-year battle with cancer.

Born in Edwards, Illinois in 1943, Ron displayed natural gravitation towards community and teaching. Ron worked in education for 46 years as a teacher/counselor, coach, and principal for Spalding High School, Limestone High School, East Peoria High School, Notre Dame High School, Armstrong Oakview Grade School in East Peoria, Paul Bolin Grade School in East Peoria and Central Junior High School in East Peoria. After he retired from 23 years in public schools and 23 years in private schools, Ron began serving for three years as a bailiff for the Peoria County Court House. Ron spent 21 years as a sports official in basketball, baseball, and football. Ron is a member of the Peoria Sports Officials Hall of Fame.

Ron was a man of deep faith and a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Kickapoo, Illinois, where he belonged to Bishop Rosati Council of the Knights of Columbus. Ron's devout service awarded him the PRO Ecclesia ET Pontific Medallion from the Diocese of Peoria in 2000, the Peoria Notre Dame Foundation award in 2004, and the Alumni of the Year Award in 2017. The religious values and foundation of faith instilled through Ron's teachings will continue to strengthen our community for years to come.

From teacher, coach, administrator, sports official, husband, father, and grandfather, Ron lived his life serving others with honesty, humility, and integrity. We mourn the passing of Ronald Dwyer, a friend and hero to many across the state of Illinois. He left a lasting impact on those who had the pleasure of knowing and learning from him.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE INSURRECTIONIST ATTACK UPON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL ACT

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the National Commission on the Insurrectionist Attack Upon the United States Capitol Act, which would create a national commission to provide a complete account surrounding the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, including preparedness and response. The commission would also present recommendations on how to protect our country from future attacks. My bill is modeled on the bipartisan legislation that created a national commission to investigate the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

What happened on January 6, 2021, is no less grave, no less revealing than what happened to our country in 2001. In 2001, we realized that we were woefully unprepared for a foreign terrorist attack. The bipartisan national commission created by Congress conducted an unbiased investigation and helped us improve our defenses against international threats.

Now we are faced with another threat, but this one does not come from outside, it comes from within. The people who ransacked and defaced the U.S. Capitol, the people who threatened elected officials trying to fulfill their constitutional duty were not foreigners; they were Americans. In order to tackle this new internal threat to our democracy, we must understand it, and we cannot understand it without investigating how this attack on the U.S. Capitol occurred.

The commission created by my bill would draw upon all available evidence and prior investigations to generate a full and complete accounting of the circumstances of the attack and the country's preparedness for and immediate response to the attack. This commission must be above the fray of politics to give us clear answers on what happened on January 6th. The American people deserve unbiased answers.

What happened is deeply personal for me and for many who live or grew up in the District of Columbia, where the U.S. Capitol is located. We all recognize the U.S. Capitol as a sacred symbol of democracy, but domestic terrorists came into my hometown and wreaked mayhem on our federal governing institutions. The commission would provide definitive answers to help Congress determine policies to ward off such attacks in the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ADOLPH FLOYD GONELLA

##### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of a distinguished American and a brother-friend, Adolph Floyd Gonella, Ph.D., who was born on November 1, 1933 in San Mateo County, California, and passed away on January 4, 2021, at the age of 87. Floyd Gonella was the son of Amedeo and Margherita Gonella who were immigrants from Italy. His father was a farmer who raised cabbage and artichokes. Floyd's family lived humbly and he learned from them the value of hard work and service to others. He experienced anti-Italian discrimination during World War II when they were declared enemy aliens and placed under curfew as residents of a coastal county. This contributed to his empathy and passion for helping the disadvantaged among us.

Dr. Gonella earned his degree in education and several teaching certificates from San Francisco State where he was a star football player, and he earned a doctorate in education at the University of California, Berkeley. His distinguished career included service as an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University, and as Superintendent of the Jefferson Union High School District. He went on to be elected to three 4-year terms as the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools and was considered 'Mr. Education' by everyone.

Dr. Gonella retired as County Superintendent of Schools in 2003 and stepped up to become Superintendent of East Palo Alto's bankrupt Ravenswood City School District. Working with city, school and community leaders he revitalized the district and brought it to fiscal and educational health. He then went on to the dysfunctional Vallejo City Unified School District where he and Superintendent Rick Damelio were successful in rescuing the district. In addition to assisting poorly performing school districts, Dr. Gonella and his wife, Margaret, created the Daly City Youth Health Center which has been providing services to low-income teens for thirty years.

Dr. Gonella earned many awards, including Coach of the Year in 1962 and the Fred Kiesel Distinguished Service Award. He served on the California Advisory Council on School Restructuring and was named Outstanding Alumnus by the San Francisco State Education Department. For three decades he served as Team Chair of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, frequently traveling to various Asian countries to accredit schools. He also led the Daly City Chamber of Commerce in an extensive membership drive.

Dr. Gonella gave generously of his time and considerable talents to the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council, the Criminal Justice Council, the San Mateo County AIDS Program Community Advisory Committee, the Junior Statesmen Foundation, the First 5 Commission, and the American Heart Association. In 2003, the County Office of Education honored him by naming its offices the Floyd Gonella Education Center.

Floyd Gonella was a decades-long friend and trusted advisor to me and beloved by my entire family. His compassion and care for

those less privileged were a source of inspiration to all who had the good fortune to know him, and his expertise as an educator was unparalleled. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, worked with him, and called him friend. He leaves his wife, Margaret Taylor; his daughter, Michelle Gonella; his son, Michael Gonella (Chelsea) and grandsons, Nick and Alex; and his son, Stephen.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our condolences to Margaret Taylor and the entire Gonella family. Floyd Gonella lived a purposeful life, transforming the lives of countless students who he had great faith in. He made our community a better place to live in and learn, and he strengthened our country with his countless contributions.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF JEAN OVERMAN

##### HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the exemplary leadership and faith-based work of Pastor Jean Overman, who has been recognized as the 2021 Pastor of the Year for the National Christians in Action.

Pastor Jean Overman has dedicated her entire life's work to serving the people in her community in and around Inkster and Western Wayne County in Michigan's 13th Congressional District. Her drive to serve for the good of our communities has had a profound impact on the lives of many. In addition to her pastoral duties and spiritual work, she serves as Executive Director of Operation Refuge, a local charitable organization that runs a number of programs to assist our most underserved populations. Its Mother's Pantry program affords families emergency food assistance in a grocery store-style setting. And, its Camp Inspire, a summer STEM camp, is a catalyst to instill confidence in young women and inspire them to explore science and technology studies.

In short, Pastor Jean Overman is an advocate for social justice, uplifting issues around poverty, education, racial justice and more. Her work reflects her love of community and her passion for creating a better future for our families. Her commitment to help those in need is unwavering and truly reflective of what it means to live like Christ.

Pastor Jean Overman is a true public servant, and we are truly grateful for her advocacy and her work every day serving the district. Please join me in recognition of her outstanding achievement.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ROAD USER CHARGE ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2021

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Road User Charge Advancement Act of 2021. This legislation passed the